



# AMERICAN BOARD OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY



## Maintenance of Certification

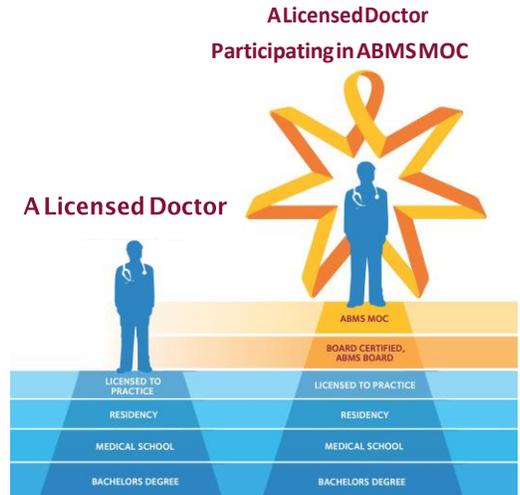
Maintenance of Certification is a program all ABMS boards have developed to encourage lifelong learning, and to improve the quality of care board certified physicians provide their patients. MOC was first implemented in 2002 and has evolved over the succeeding years into a comprehensive, practice-focused specific, four part program that all ABOto diplomates certified or subcertified since 2002 must participate in to maintain their certificate. All ABOto Directors voluntarily participate, and more diplomates with timeless certificates are also participating because they recognize the benefits of MOC.

Some of the benefits of MOC include:

- Recognition of participation on the patient section of ABOto and the ABMS websites.
- Use of the MOC participation logo on your website.



- A growing number of hospitals and other credentialing bodies require MOC participation to maintain privileges.



## Part I - Professionalism and Professional Standing

All MOC participants are required to be ABOto diplomates and must maintain an unrestricted medical license in each jurisdiction in which they practice. Additionally, MOC participants must maintain clinical privileges at a hospital or ambulatory surgical center. If clinical privileges are not maintained, the participant must affirm that the privileges were not lost due to an adverse action. Finally, the \$310 annual MOC fee paid during Part I covers all ABOto MOC components.

## Part II - Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment

The participant must obtain 25 CME units annually, 60% of which must be in otolaryngology or, in the case of those subcertified in Neurotology or Sleep Medicine, in those areas respectively. Additionally, MOC participants must complete a Part II self-assessment module (SAM) annually.

## MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

An example of a physician’s MOC Dashboard is displayed below. When logged-in to their ABOTO profiles, physicians can click on a red or green dot within the dashboard to access and complete their Part I Annual Form and Fee, Part II SAMs, Part III Exam Application, and Part IV activities.

YEAR	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
PART I	★	★	★	★	★	★	●	●	●	●
PART II	★	★	★	★	●	●	●	●	●	●
PART III									●	
PART IV			●					●		

★™ The ABMS’ MOC Star indicates that you have successfully completed the MOC requirement.

● A green dot indicates that this requirement is available to complete at this time.

● A red dot indicates that this requirement is past due.

● A blue dot indicates that this task is not due until the assigned year.

### Part III - Assessment of Knowledge, Judgement, and Skills

MOC participants are required to pass a secure, closed-book exam once every 10 years. The exam becomes available during the last 3 years of the MOC cycle, providing three opportunities to pass the exam before the end of the ten year time period. These exams are computer based and are administered in testing centers around the world.

Diplomates can choose their practice focus area for the exam, which consists of 77 specialty-focused questions and 3 Clinical Fundamental (topics all otolaryngologists should know, regardless of practice-focus area) questions. Diplomates can view the entire blueprint on the ABOTO website.

The ABOTO is developing an online platform, CertLink, which will present approximately 20 questions per quarter that diplomates can answer online on their own schedule. Once the diplomate selects and answer, the correct answer will appear along with a statement of why the correct answer is correct and the other options are incorrect along with one or two references. CertLink will launch in late 2018.

Diplomates who opt for CertLink and maintain an appropriate performance will be exempt from the Part III exam and would meet the annual Part II self-assessment requirements (SAMs).

### Part IV - Improvement in Medical Practice

The ABOTO is working closely with the AAO-HNS on its Regent<sup>SM</sup> registry to ensure the registry data is compatible with the ABOTO MOC program. When implemented, Regent<sup>SM</sup> users will have the option of forwarding the pertinent data periodically to the ABOTO which will then provide feedback on improvement in practice.